

ver·ti·cal

ver·ti·cal (vûr[tĭkəl]) *adjective*

Abbr. vert.

1. Being or situated at right angles to the horizon; upright.
2. Situated at the vertex or highest point; directly overhead.
3. *Anatomy.* Of or relating to the vertex of the head.
4. *Economics.* Relating to or involving all stages from production to sale: *vertical integration*.
5. Relating to or composed of elements at different levels, as of society.

noun

1. Something vertical, as a line, plane, or circle.
2. A vertical position.

[Late Latin *verticilis*, overhead, from Latin ¹*vertex*, *vertic-*, highest point. See *vertex*.]

— **ver ti cal i ty** (-k l -t) or **ver ti cal ness** (-k l-n s) *noun*

— **ver ti cal ly** *adverb*

Synonyms: *vertical, upright, perpendicular, plumb.* These adjectives are compared as they mean being at or approximately at right angles to the horizon or to level ground. *Vertical* and especially *upright* are often used to signify contrast with what is horizontal; the terms do not always imply an exact right angle: *wallpaper with vertical stripes; an upright column.* *Perpendicular* and *plumb* are generally used to specify an angle of precisely 90 degrees: *a perpendicular escarpment; careful to make the doorjambs plumb.*

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